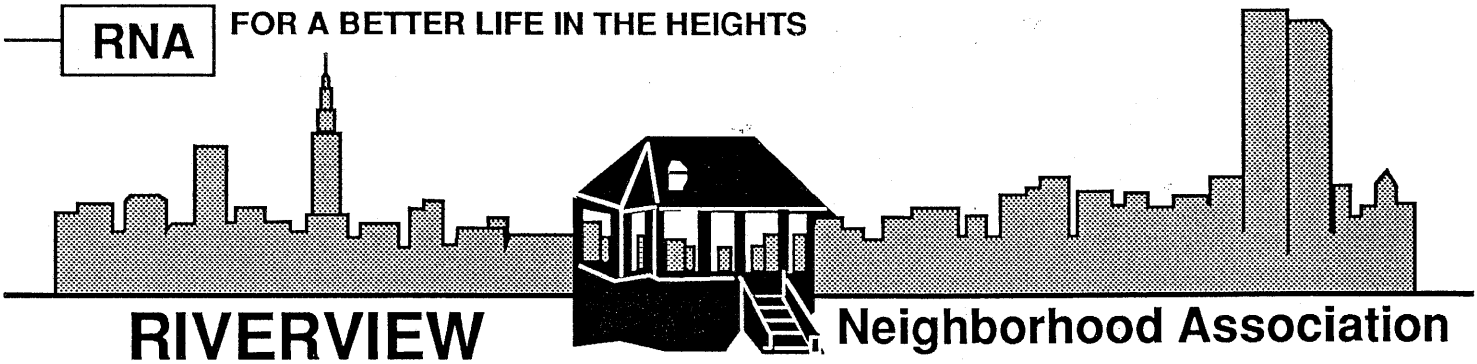
RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS



RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

September, 1993

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

THE NEW CHAIR: A Change of Season

As you read this article, it will be approximately two weeks till the arrival of Fall. I hope you had a productive and joyful summer, playing out in the sun and surf, picniking, traveling or just relaxing in the backyard watching the temperatrue rise.

The mission of RNA is to continue to move in a positive and productive manner to make this neighborhood a better place to live. As we turn another season, I hope that we can look back at the past few months and acknowledge our accomplishments. During our brief tenure as executives, Russell and I have tried to shape the direction of RNA. Out efforts have sometimes bore fruit but other times they have not. What I ask of you, our members, is to speak up and get involved in the process. What I'm talking about is not to just complain about noise, litter, taxes, drugs or crime. Because what we really need is for you to help RNA effectively organize our local resources and formulate a plan on how we can reduce these complaints. We need our members to try and take more of an initiative. We cannot just sit back and apply our mouths. We need arms and legs and minds to work in this process.

Before I end, I would also like to thank everyone involved in the neigborhood clean-up we had on Saturday, June 26th. RNA had a successful clean-up with approximately 50 adults and children participating throughout the day. We picked up 30 yards of rubbish from Riverview-Fiske Park, and Palisade Avenue between Congress Street and Cuneo Place. We also cut shrubs on Ferry Street and Palisade Avenue. The children enjoyed the outing and I hope that the message that litter and rubbish is a negative element in our neighborhood was impressed upon them.

RNA would also like to thank all the City employees involved in the Clean Communities Project. It is a positive program that encourages citizens to control their own local environment. RNA plans to continue to organize its own scaled down clean-up events in the future.

The following is a list of the participants in the clean-up: Russell Pratt, Katherine Keens, Rachel Famularo, Natasha Marrero, Ernest Quintero, Dorothy Rosario, Enrique Cosme, Angel Rios, Rene Campusano, Henry Melendez, Wendy Suarez, Nicolo Dougherty,

(continued on page two)

In Memory of a good neighbor

Our good friend and neighbor, Beatrice Higgins passed away on July 28, 1993 at the age of 63. She was one of the more active supporters of RNA. She was always volunteering to participate in our community projects: distributing flyers, working at the Flea Market and the Harbor View parties for the residents. She will be missed in our neighborhood. Therefore this edition of the RNA newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our friend Bea.

Bea lived on Ferry Street and Abbott Street before moving to Ogden Avenue, where she lived for 46 years. She first lived in 169 Ogden with her family, including six brothers and sisters. She is survived by five of them: Joseph, Francis, Florence, Catherine and Edna. About twenty years ago, she moved into 168 Ogden Avenue. She stayed in the neighborhood because she said that she always felt safe there. She knew she could always call and rely on her friends and neighbors, including Kathy, Marie and Claire.

Her schooling included St Nicholas and St. Paul of the Cross, where she was a graduate of their commercial course. She worked for the New York Telephone Company for 40 years as a group chief. She loved to play bingo so much that she had a favorite seat at St. Paul of the Cross bingo games.

She loved her family and her friends. She was devoted to her many nieces and nephews. She was always talking to her friends and family on the telephone. She always asked if she could go to the store for her friends or if she could carry something to the RNA meetings. She loved helping people and sold 50/50 tickets at the Ephianny in Cliffside Park.

One of her neighbors, Mrs. Marie Tuzzo, remembers

(continued on page two)

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
AT 7:15 PM
AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE: **POLICE CAPTAIN THOMAS P. KANE, COMMANDER OF THE NORTH DISTRICT**

THE NEW CHAIR (continued from page one)

Shawn Zegular, Freddy Suarez, Carlos Reyes, Kamran Merza, Edwin Munez, Angelo Cioffi, Raymond Concepcion, Felix Rios, Edwin Amarillo, Gabriel Nunez, Carlos Peguera, Mark Wilder, Gabindat Ramjug, Angelica Gaetan, Duir Kordiorwell, Kayade Brown, Larissa Butterfield, Tania Martinez, Rosemary Mitchell, Christopher Rodriguez, Giordano Campos, John Young, Rohan Breusfer, Sherril Trueheart, Carlos Jimenez, Joc Sanchez, Sequoia Young, Dawn Gaeta, Rose Gutierrez, Christine Valdera, Ann Maintanis and Emily. (Please pardon us if we either forgot to list your name or misspelled your name. Your efforts are well appreciated!)

Ernest Quintero, Chair

In Memory of Bea Higgins

(continued from page one)

her as a good natured soul who never refused anyone and was always helpful. After her retirement, she became a staple of the neighborhood. She always remembered the birthdays and family events of her friends. "She would pick up her window blinds to welcome home our family on their return from the shore on the weekends.Bea was one in a million because she really cared about the neighborhood. It will not be the same without her. "

Another friend, Madeline Tuzzo Rea wrote a touching tribute for Bea. "She was a genuine friend. In life's path you meet friends, some are silver and some are gold. She was gold. She had so much compassion for the elderly and infirm. I loved to hear her stories because she made you laugh and cry. She touched so many people's hearts. May she find peace. She shall always be in my memories and prayers."

Neighbor and RNA chair, Ernie Quintero said that "I knew Bea for a short time but I was impressed with her contributions to our neighborhood and RNA. She was the model of a volunteer in many ways. I hope that I meet more of her kind in my lifetime."

Another good friend, Valerie Parzych wrote a poem in memory of Bea:

"There once was a woman called Bea,
A good friend she was to me,
She was kind and would share
And always did care,
I miss her tremendously!"

MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 8, 1993:

Several RNA members reported on the June 7th meeting of the Community Relations Council at the North District Police Station. At that meeting, Captain Thomas Kane promised increased visibility of police patrols throughout the Heights, including the narcotics squad.

At our own RNA meeting, police officers Doyle and Denere were in attendance to observe and answer questions. Of particular interest to our members was the recent shooting in Riverview-Fiske Park. The members also took this opportunity to complain about loud music, honking car horns, and cars parked in front of fire hydrants.

There was also final discussions about the upcoming Flea Market and Neighborhood Clean-up. An encouraging sign was that there were 8 new faces - potential new members - at this meeting!

JULY 13, 1993:

The July meeting was sparsely attended. So much so, that a large part of the evening was taken up with a discussion on whether or not to cancel the upcoming August meeting. Those in favor of holding the August meeting won after a vote was taken because there was general agreement that it is good to maintain the monthly meeting as something that the neighborhood can rely on.

Other topics of discussion for the evening were the success of the Flea Market and the Neighborhood Clean-up and guest speakers for the future. Members enjoyed the refreshments of Gert Bogdan, Rose Scalzo and Mrs. Marie Tuzzo.

AUGUST 10, 1993:

The meeting began with the announcement of the passing of member Bea Higgins. It was decided to dedicate the September issue of our newsletter to her.

There was also a discussion and a vote concerning the proposed golf course to be built at Liberty State Park. RNA voted to oppose the golf course and instead support the building of more pastoral projects, such as a nature sanctuary.

There was also a discussion to support the efforts of the O Save Our City Association Inc. (OSOCA) by investing in their 1994 calendar project. OSOCA is a Jersey City-based nonprofit corporation whose main purposes are to foster active participation in city government, to disseminate information to residents and businesses regarding the activities of the municipality, and to highlight the role and plight of the average taxpayer and to articulate his or her concerns. A suggestion was made that the organization should use more photos and prints of the Heights, which could be obtained from our local historian, Ted Conrad.

Suzanne Maroon, Secretary and Maria Tuzzo

Speedy Recovery for Gert Bogdan

Our friend and neighbor, Gert Bogdan of Palisade Avenue, recently underwent hospitalization. Her prognosis is good and she says that she is feeling a bit better each day.

RNA wishes her the best of health and a speedy recovery. Another member, Frances Santoro, RNA's newest literary talent, wrote a short letter to Gert, which expresses how we all feel about her.

"I am saying thank you for all the beautiful cakes you have baked for the RNA. You are always there to greet us with a warm embrace and often a kind kiss. Also at the flea market, puffing away at the food table working so hard for our organization to make a buck. Who knows what problems members have, but you are always there with your pleasing personality. We love you, Gert!

"Your cakes are always so delicious and they are always taken for granted, not knowing the time you consumed baking them. I personally want to say how much your being at the meetings have meant to me and I

am sure all the other members feel the same. Good luck, be well and hurry back to us as soon as you are able."

CONRAD'S CORNER

Jersey City with just about the largest senior citizen population in the United States should have a low tax rate for these seniors because they require less services. It has instead one of the highest tax rates of any city in the country, while our rich waterfront developers only pay thirty percent in taxes and sometimes not even that because they continue to appeal their assessments.

With tenants on a rent ceiling, living high off the hog, the homeowners are losing their houses because they can no longer afford to maintain them.

We should have an out-of-town tax for the people who come to work in the morning and go home to the suburbs at night, where they do their shopping, especially those who work for the City.

Have our politicians decided to kill off our senior citizen homeowners with a reverse mortgage? How cruel. As more seniors and working - or rather unemployed - middle class homeowners lose their homes, the remaining homeowners will have to make up the difference unless we have an out-of-town tax to save them. There is no way our citizens, especially the seniors on fixed income, can pay any increase in taxes.

Since the latest trend of big business companies is to eliminate many jobs, we should do the same with our three thousand, two hundred city workers. No wonder we cannot pay our taxes with such a large - mostly out-of-town - army to support. In Mayor Hague's day, we had more people living in the City and not even five hundred employees working for the City. Everything was maintained in mint condition.

Now look at the roof of Murdoch Hall, modeled after the Barbizon Hotel in New York. It is a complete shambles, while the Barbizon Hotel is still in mint condition. Take a look at the Medical Center Power House and the rest of the hospital complex, now a disgrace, but still providing better service than Christ Hospital or St. Francis.

And then take a look at Dickinson High School, once the first and finest technical school, now with four year students who cannot even read or write. Or the finest firehouse in the state now up for sale on Palisade Avenue, so a new one can be built in the Reservoir with another high school by out-of-town architects and builders, so it's impossible to check on any potential graft. Oh yes, a new Central Avenue police station is also contemplated for the Reservoir which was originally supposed to be used for recreation, to replace the loss of Roosevelt Stadium.

Politics in Hudson County is still fun and games with our democratic politicians it seems still running the show and Mayor Schundler counting on the Waterfront to turn the City around. Lots of luck, Mayor!

September, 1993

FRAN REMEMBERS:

When Hats were in Fashion

Looking at the inauguration ceremonies of President Clinton and Vice President Gore and noticing the hats their wives were wearing, I thought to myself how unbecoming. Maybe its because I am not of this generation. Looking back in time - I do not mean the 1900's, but the years that made up my generation - it was in the 1930's that I became aware of what the young ladies were wearing in the way of hats. Even in my early teens, we wore some sort of a hat - like a beret or a small cloche, which was a bell shaped hat with a small brim.

We wore hats for all the seasons - summer, winter, spring and fall. In the summer, we wore all types of hats made of straw with soft colors of pink, white and light blue. What a thrill it was to shop for a new chapeau, as we went from store to store that sold nothing but hats. I even went to 34th Street in New York City, where there was one hat shop next to each other.

Of course, it was the movies that set the styles for women's hats and for that matter they also set the style for the men. When Ingrid Bergman played in Casablanca , she wore a hat with a small crown and a fairly large brim which came down over the face making a frame for her beautiful face. As you can imagine, all women wanted to purchase one just like Ms. Bergman's.

In those days, they also had a style which was very becoming to the smaller woman, which was called a cloche. Can't you imagine what concentration trying to find a becoming hat. If you were a large woman and put on a tiny hat, you would look a bit ridiculous - all woman and no hat. The same problem for the tiny woman with a large hat, all hat and no body. One had to find the right hat for your frame.

When Gene Tierney played in Laura, the hat which had a turned up brim in front and felt draped down on the sides, became very popular. You all know that the song Laura is a classic. Of course, Jackie Kennedy made the pillbox hat famous and they will always be in fashion. The same with the turban, which looked like it was draped on the head and was in fashion all year round. They made turbans in many types of material - velvet, jersey, and paisley satin.

We had two very beautiful millinery stores on Central Avenue. located between Zabriskie and Hutton Streets. They were called Adrianns and Ming Toy, which was a few doors down. I personally liked Adrianns because she made her hats very ornate and would also take an order to make a hat for you - any style or color. Whatever or whoever changed the hair styles to make the hair bouffant certainly destroyed the millinery business and put thousands of people out of work all over the world. Factories who made hat forms to sell to all the hat shops had to close and the talented people who decorated these forms were also out of work. Hat shops employed women who worked in the rear of the store and just decorated hats. It was an art and then women sewed all day long.

I personally remember some hats I owned and I am sure you girls can also. My only regret is that I did not have the sense to save some of them. One of my favorites was shaped like a military helmet worn by the German soldiers during World War One. It was light green and the crown of the hat was made of white feathers one layer on top of another. It was gorgeous - all made by hand except the crown of the hat. I also had a pale pink high crowned hat with a medium brim. The whole hat was made of pink veiling and one can imagine how delicate the hat was.

Another one of my favorites was black satin and had a shape like a man's straw hat. This hat was an original made by Adrianns and was adorned with a cluster of multi-colored heavy jewels in the front. I thought I was really something in my stunning black satin suit and that beautiful hat.

The men also wore hats - felt in the winter and straw in the summer. Of course, there was the cap which most men preferred. There were hat stores for men. There were also stores which did cleaning and blocking of men's hats and which had four or five high chairs where men sat on to have their shoes shinned. There was such a store on Central Avenue and North Street for cleaning and blocking men's hats.

The season for wearing straw hats and white shoes started Decoration day and ended Labor Day when you started the fall season with felts.

Going to a special affair, you had to be dressed and everyone else was also. The Easter Parade on Fifth Avenue is the only example I can bring to mind to describe what it was like during this time. Of course, they exaggerate the styles but you get the idea of what I am trying to describe to you. I think they are trying to bring back the wearing of hats but they can never duplicate the way it was. I can remember vividly some of those gorgeous picture hats. Women were really dressed during that era.

Frances Santoro

HCNBA MEETING ON SEPT. 27

The Heights Coalition of Neighborhood and Block Associations is holding its monthly meeting on Monday, September 27th, at 7:00 pm at the New 28 School. It is located at 139 Hancock Avenue.

This meeting will be open to the public because it is an opportunity to introduce the Heights community to the new Council members. The guest speakers will be Councils at large Thomas DeGise, L. Harvey Smith and Fernando L. Colon; Ward D Council Bill Gaughan and Ward C Nancy Gaynor.

To maximize the time and avoid repetition, questions will be limited to the HCNBA representatives from each of the Heights associations. Therefore, RNA requests that its members bring potential questions to be selected for the HCNBA meeting to our own RNA meeting on Sept. 14th.

REMEMBERING FRIENDS

My younger years with all my friends were good years. My older brother had his own friends, my sister hers and I my own. But somehow, we all got along very well, some more than others but there was never any jealously amongst us. We all shared, played together and went out together.

At night, most of the times we dressed up and just talked, played cards, or went to the ice cream parlor for soft cream. Some of us had cars but no gas money, so we would round up enough money for gas and go riding. Our families all knew one another and we were welcomed in each other's homes to listen to records.

Time passed and all drifted apart because of marriage, moving away, the war and even death. Sometimes we didn't see each other in 5, 10, or more years but we remembered our younger years and were happy to see each other. They were there for comfort, encouragement or to make you laugh. We were not just friends but more like relatives.

Jack Rea

MEMORIAL DAY

I was sad on that day. Every year, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars would march to the corner of Palisade Avenue and Bowers Street. They would place a wreath at the monument in memory of our brave soldiers who died for us all.

This year, however, they never came. Very few flags were hung out at people's homes. Let us never forget our brave soldiers who died. There are also the veterans in the hospitals. I know the pain because my brother died in the Battle of the Bulge at the age of 23.

Josephine Alegretto

Religious Donations for the Needy

I will take any new or used small religious statutes or medals or any type of rosary beads that you would like to discard. They will be forwarded to a Catholic brother who in turn will distribute them to inmates or the homeless. Please bring these items to the next RNA meeting on September 14th. Thank you for your charity.

Jack Rea

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

RNA is soliciting material for our newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers are interested in. Would you like to thank someone? Maybe you would like to complain about something. How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe, whether it is a family heirloom or something you just found out about. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

Drop off contributions in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Avenue. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTERS."

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR: Vito Brunetti
CONTRIBUTORS: Hank Cesari, Ted Conrad, Suzanne Maroon, Margaret McCorry, Ernest Quintero, Madeline Tuzzo Rea, Jack Rea, Frances Santoro, Maria Tuzzo
CIRCULATION: Mrs. Tuzzo, Jack Rea
ART WORK: Raquel Sweeney , Russell Pratt

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to announce the official expansion of the northern boundaries of the Riverview Neighborhood Association from Bowers Street to Congress Street on both Palisade and Ogden Avenues. (Riverview Neighborhood Association will now represent residents living on Palisade and Ogden Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.)

Adopted: December 12, 1992

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 7:15 PM.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ADVERTISERS

QUALITY RENOVATIONS AND CABINETRY

Archetype

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Additions
- Restorations
- Tilework
- Trimwork
- Custom Cabinets

DESIGN AND
FABRICATION CORP.
P. O. Box 1016
Hoboken, NJ 07030

(201) 869-4012

SERVING THE HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY
SINCE 1890

STATE LISC.#6686

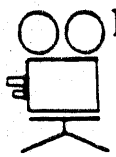
10 % SENIOR CITIZEN DISC.

WERNER BROS., INC.

PLUMBING AND HEATING
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
INSTALLATIONS - ALTERATIONS - REPAIRS
LICENSE #6686
WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS
FOR REMOVAL OF LEAD AND CONTAMINANTS.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER
$299.00 INSTALLED.
OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 31, 1993

63 IRVING ST.
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07307
PHONE 659-4441



HOME VIDEO THEATRE

368 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
(201) 795-1990

Telephone (201) 864-7450

A & P ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

A P

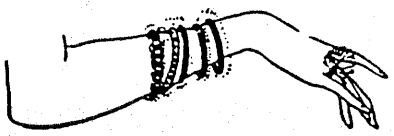
Electrical, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Contractors

338 PALISADE AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, N. J. 07307

PEDRO ARANA
President

Business Permit
State License No. 4692-A

Tel. 659-1263 *Sam Koralja, Prop.*



Sam's Jewelers

335 PALISADE AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, N. J.

TRAFFIC, ENGRAVED & CUSTOM SIGNS
CUSTOM BANNERS & FLAGS
DECALS, MAGNETIC SIGNS
DIRECTORY PRODUCTS

(201) 656-1991
FAX (201) 656-4764

Craft Industries

Robert Iezzi

339 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307

201-659-2668

FAX (201) 659-9274

Signs & Graphics

DIVISION OF ERIC'S, INC.
DESIGNING, FABRICATING & INSTALLING
OF ALL KIND OF SIGNS

ERIC MORTIMER
Administrator

330 PALISADE AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

BILLIARD SPECTACULAR

(201) 617-POOL

FREE 1/2 HOUR

Billiard 9 Spectacular

ANYTIME WITH THIS AD

ONE PER CUSTOMER

WEEKDAYS & SUNDAYS
11AM-1AM
FRI. & SAT.
11AM-3AM

401 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07307

BOTANICA

CONSULTAS

NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL LORETO

333 PALISADE AVENUE
JERSEY CITY
796-2050

JOYERIA

ARTICULOS
PARA FIESTAS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE RNA NEWSLETTER, PLEASE MAIL (2) OF YOUR BUSINESS CARDS AND A CHECK [EITHER $10/ONE MONTH OR $60/NINE MONTHS] TO RNA, 232 OGDEN AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, N.J. 07307.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

COME TO OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH at 7:15 PM

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JERSEY CITY, N.J.
07302
PERMIT # 153
CAR.-RT. PRESORT

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Ernest Quintero
Chairperson

Russell Pratt
Vice-chairperson

Suzanne Maroon
Secretary

Jack Rea
Treasurer

Marie Tuzzo
Sgt. at Arms

Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

COMMITTEES:

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT

FLEA MARKET

NEWSLETTER

RNA ACTIVITIES FOR THE FALL SEASON

1) ANNUAL PARTY FOR HARBOR VIEW RESIDENTS: Volunteers are needed to serve refreshments and help entertain the guests at our **annual holiday party for the residents of the Harbor View Health Center.** Donations of dietetic baked goods are needed. No date has been decided yet, but the party will take place in December. If you can help in anyway, please attend the September 14th meeting to assist in the planning.

2) FOOD AND TOY DRIVE: RNA will again be accepting **donations of nonperishable foods and toys** (either new or used, but in working condition) **for distribution by the Salvation Army for the holiday season.** These donations can be brought to the October 12th, November 9th and the December 14th meetings of RNA. Cash donations are acceptable and will be disbursed according to the donor's wishes. For information regarding other locations where these donations can be dropped off, please call Maria tuzzo at 659-2245 after 6 p.m.

3) HOLIDAY CAROLING: Anyone interested in going **Caroling** this Christmas should come to the September 14th meeting. We will organize the event for the Holidays if there is sufficient interest and willing participants.